

- 1 1. A method comprising:
2 determining if there is a pending demand request
3 to a cached disk subsystem and, if not, executing a non-
4 demand request.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 including queuing requests
2 including demand requests, requests to write from the cache
3 back to a disk drive, and requests to flush the cache.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein if the next request
2 is a non-demand request, executing said non-demand request
3 and monitoring for a demand request.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3 including preempting the
2 execution of the non-demand request after receiving a
3 demand request and executing the demand request before
4 completing the non-demand request.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4 including re-queuing said
2 non-demand request for execution after the completion of
3 the demand request.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 including determining
2 whether the cache is idle before executing a write back
3 request.

1 7. The method of claim 1 including interrupting a
2 write back request during its execution after receiving a
3 demand request.

1 8. The method of claim 1 including executing cache
2 flush operations when a pending write back request has been
3 received.

1 9. The method of claim 1 including executing a
2 driver generated non-demand write back request.

1 10. An article comprising a medium storing
2 instructions that, if executed, enable a processor-based
3 system to:
4 determine if there is a pending demand request to
5 a cached disk subsystem and, if not, execute a non-demand
6 request.

1 11. The article of claim 10 further storing
2 instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based
3 system to queue requests including demand requests,
4 requests to write from the cache back to a disk drive, and
5 requests to flush the cache.

1 12. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based
3 system to execute said non-demand request and monitor for a
4 demand request.

1 13. The article of claim 12 further storing
2 instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based
3 system to interrupt the execution of the non-demand request
4 after receiving a demand request and execute the demand
5 request before completing the non-demand request.

1 14. The article of claim 13 further storing
2 instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based
3 system to re-queue said non-demand request for execution
4 after the completion of the demand request.

1 15. The article of claim 10 further storing
2 instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based
3 system to determine whether the cached disk subsystem is
4 idle before executing a non-demand request.

1 16. The article of claim 10 further storing
2 instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based
3 system to interrupt the execution of a non-demand request
4 after receiving a demand request.

1 17. The article of claim 10 further storing
2 instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based
3 system to execute cache flush instructions when a pending
4 write back request has been received.

1 18. A system comprising:
2 a cache;
3 a disk drive coupled to said cache; and
4 a controller to determine if there is a pending
5 demand request to a cached disk subsystem and, if not,
6 implement a non-demand request.

1 19. The system of claim 18, said controller to queue
2 requests including demand requests, requests to write from
3 the cache back to the disk drive, and requests to flush the
4 cache.

1 20. The system of claim 19, said controller to
2 execute a non-demand request and monitor for a demand
3 request.

1 21. The system of claim 20, said controller to
2 interrupt the execution of a non-demand request after
3 receiving a demand request and execute the demand request
4 before completing the non-demand request.

1 22. The system of claim 21, said controller to re-
2 queue said non-demand request after a completion of the
3 demand request.

1 23. The system of claim 18, said controller to
2 determine whether the cached disk subsystem is idle before
3 executing a non-demand request.

1 24. The system of claim 18, said controller to
2 interrupt the execution of a non-demand request after
3 receiving a demand request.

1 25. The system of claim 18, said controller to
2 execute cache flush instructions when a pending write back
3 request has been received.